

U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study

Study Elements

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study team will conduct planning, engineering design, and environmental review necessary to produce a corridor plan, right-of-way plans, and an environmental assessment.

Planning

Transportation planning is an important component of this study. It allows ITD and COMPASS to:

- Develop safety and congestion management strategies in the corridor area, including limiting access to the highway
- Identify opportunities to accommodate alternative transportation modes, such as transit, cycling and walking
- Identify strategies to preserve right-of-way
- Prioritize proposed improvements
- Assure consistency between the corridor plan and the land use comprehensive plans for the cities and counties

Engineering Design

The engineers will propose a variety of typical section alternatives. A typical section is a cross section of the highway. It shows:

- Number of lanes
- Shoulder width
- Medians
- Roadside features, such as curb, gutter, sidewalks, pathways, landscaping and lighting

The engineers will determine the costs and property impacts of the various alternatives.

Environmental Review

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that an environmental review be completed before right-of-way can be acquired with federal funds. The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will result in an environmental review that identifies impacts to:

- Local land use
- Community facilities and businesses
- Cultural and historical resources
- Noise and air quality
- The natural environment

Background

U.S. 20/26 is one of the few east-west roadways in the Treasure Valley that runs from Caldwell to Boise. It is currently a two-lane rural roadway with a 55 mph speed limit.

Current land use along the roadway is mainly agricultural; however, an increasing number of residential subdivisions are being constructed. Right-of-way costs along U.S. 20/26 are escalating. The future is expected to bring mixed-use development that will transform U.S. 20/26 into an urban corridor. COMPASS and ITD want to work cooperatively with cities and Ada and Canyon counties to keep U.S. 20/26 functioning as a safe, primary east-west route in the future. COMPASS and ITD will seek input from all stakeholders, including local developers, property owners and motorists.

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study team encourages the public to participate in the formation of the corridor plan. Public opportunities for participation are noted on the chart below and include public meetings and a public hearing. You will be notified of these opportunities. You can also provide comments at any time on the project Web site at www.itd.idaho.gov, click on Get Involved, click on Southwest Idaho, click on U.S. 20/26 Corridor Study.

Public Participation and Proposed Schedule

Process:

- Identify community issues, concerns and desired roadway improvements
- Public meeting to show the range of alternatives and gather input

- Develop the range of alternatives to address issues, concerns and desired improvements
- Public meeting to gather input

- Identify preferred alternatives

- Develop draft corridor plan and environmental document
- Public hearing on draft corridor plan and environmental document

- Finalize corridor plan and prepare for adoption by agencies involved

Schedule:

Spring 2006

Summer - Fall 2006

Spring 2007

Summer - Fall 2007

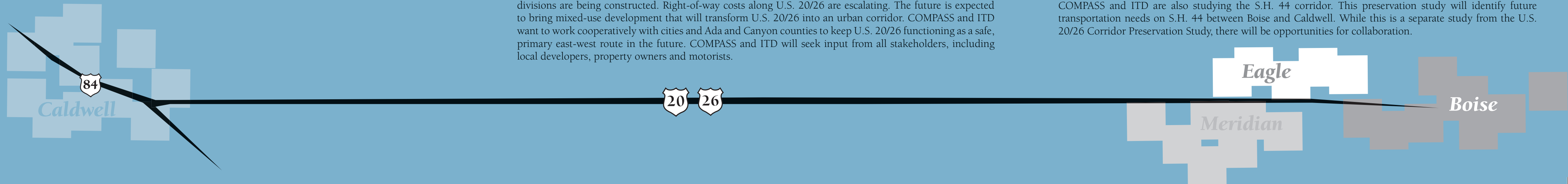
Winter 2007

The first public opportunity for input will be a public meeting May 10 and 11.

Please see the other side for more information.

S.H. 44 Corridor Preservation Study

COMPASS and ITD are also studying the S.H. 44 corridor. This preservation study will identify future transportation needs on S.H. 44 between Boise and Caldwell. While this is a separate study from the U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study, there will be opportunities for collaboration.



Study Description

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will identify future transportation improvements and determine the need for future right-of-way between Boise and Caldwell. The study is a partnership between the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

The study boundaries are Eagle Road on the east and Interstate 84 in Canyon County on the west. The length of the corridor is 15 miles.

When complete, the U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will identify:

- A vision for how the community would like this roadway to function as part of the regional transportation system
- The improvements and actions necessary for the vision to be implemented
- Additional right-of-way needed to accommodate the future needs in the corridor

Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Meridian, Nampa, Star, Ada and Canyon counties, Canyon Highway District No. 4, Ada County Highway District, COMPASS Board and ITD are all involved with this study and will be asked to adopt the final plan.

Traffic Volumes

Road Segment	U.S. 20/26 Traffic Volumes	
	Eagle Road to I-84 (Caldwell)	
	2005	2030*
Eagle to Black Cat	14,000 – 21,400	38,000 – 52,000
Black Cat to Midland	12,000 – 15,000	24,000 – 32,000
Midland to I-84	10,000 – 12,000	19,000 – 23,000

* Preliminary traffic summary report



Two aerial views of U.S. 20/26 – the photo on the left is looking west from Eagle Road and the one on the right is looking east from Meridian Road.



Help plan the future of U.S. 20/26

from Eagle Road west to I-84 in Canyon County

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will identify future transportation improvements and ways to preserve future right-of-way between Boise and Caldwell. The study is a partnership between the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

Please plan to attend one of two open houses to learn about the study and provide your input.

Wednesday, May 10, 2006 4 to 8 p.m.

Friendship Celebration Church
765 E. Chinden Blvd., Meridian
(east of Zamzows on the south side of Chinden Blvd.)

Thursday, May 11, 2006 4 to 8 p.m.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
3402 Franklin Road, Caldwell
(southeast corner of U.S. 20/26 and I-84)

Presentations will start on the hour beginning at 4 p.m.
There will be optional one-hour discussion sessions following each presentation.

For more information about this project, contact Patricia Nilsson,
Project Manager, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, 855-2558 ext. 230,
pnilsson@compassidaho.org



For more information:

Visit our project website:

- www.itd.idaho.gov, click on Get Involved, click on Southwest Idaho, click on U.S. 20/26 Corridor Study

Contact:

- Patricia Nilsson, COMPASS Principal Planner and Project Manager
Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho
800 S. Industry Way, Suite 100
Meridian, ID 83642
855-2558 ext. 230 pnilsson@compassidaho.org
- Sue Sullivan, ITD Planner and Project Manager
Idaho Transportation Department, District 3
8150 Chinden Boulevard
P.O. Box 8028
Boise, ID 83707-2028
334-8955 Sue.Sullivan@itd.idaho.gov